

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 IO-13
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPIC-03 COME-00
EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 /097 W
-----231828Z 008933 /46

P R 231716Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1515
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PSD AND CDS PRESSURE GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE
EXPLOITING THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 25 SPEECH TO PUT
PRESSURE ON THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. THE PSD AND CDS
AGREED TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT NATIONAL PROBLEMS AT A MAY 25
MEETING DESIGNED TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT INTO A PLATFORM
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OF NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. THE PS IS RESPONDING TO THE
PRESSURE BY EMPHASIZING PARTY UNITY AND TRADE UNION
ORGANIZATION; IT MAY BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE PSD
INVITATION TO TALK. END SUMMARY.

1. PSD-CDS RAPROCHEMENT: THE PSD PROPOSED LATE
LAST WEEK MEETINGS AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC

PARTIES TO REACH COMMON PLATFORMS ON LEGISLATION, LABOR STRATEGY, THE MEDIA, AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. THE CDS ACCEPTED, AND A MEETING BETWEEN TOP PSD AND CDS LEADERS IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 25.

2. PARTIES TAKE STAND: THE FOUR LEADING PARTIES HELD WEEKEND MEETINGS AT WHICH THEIR VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION WERE SET FORTH.

A. PS REAFFIRMS LABOR POLICY: THE SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE, MEETING MAY 21 IN THE PS STRONGHOLD OF PORTALEGRE, REAFFIRMED THE PARTY'S APPROVAL OF THE TRADE UNION STRATEGY PROPOSED BY LABOR MINISTER MALDONALDO GONELHA. EIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING AFTER THEIR MOTION TO TABLE WAS OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED. THE PS NATIONAL COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED:

-- ON PS UNITY: REAFFIRMED THE PARTY'S FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIME MINISTER SOARES AND underscored the importance of party unity in the face of a rising threat from the right and the absence of any democratic alternative on the left.

-- ON THE AZORES: CONDEMNED THE "MANIFEST COMPLICITY OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION" WHICH CONTINUED IN SAO MIGUEL. CALLED UPON THE AUTHORITIES TO REESTABLISH FULL RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES IN MADEIRA AND THE AZORES.

B. PSD CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT: PSD PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS MEETING IN COIMBRA
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-- ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF SCANDALOUS NEPOTISM AND POLITICAL FAVORITISM IN FILLING ADMINISTRATIVE VACANCIES; AND

-- CRITICIZED THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS FOR ITS PARTISAN MANIPULATION OF THE UNION.

C. CDS LEADER HITS GOVERNMENT: CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL SPEAKING AT THE CENTRIST YOUTH CONGRESS SAID

-- CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO BEGIN A CONSTRUCTIVE CDS-PSD DIALOGUE.

-- THE PS AND THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO UNDERESTIMATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF POLITICAL CONDITIONS.

-- THE COUNTRY NEEDS NEW UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TO GIVE NEW HOPE FOR DEMOCRACY.

D. PCP OPPOSES GOVERNMENT ON AGRARIAN REFORM: PCP SECRETARY-GENERAL ALVARO CUNHAL TOLD A GROUP OF COMMUNIST SUPPORTERS AT AN ALENTEJO RALLY:

-- THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER IS PREPARING AN

AGRARIAN LAW WHICH INTENDS TO DESTROY THE
"CONQUESTS OF THE REVOLUTION." THE GOVERNMENT,
ALLIED WITH THE PSD AND CDS IS OUT TO DESTROY
GENUINE AGRARIAN REFORM.

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P R 231716Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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-- THE WORKERS MUST BE FIRMS, COMBATIVE, AND UNITED
AGAINST REACTIONARY FORCES AND THE PSEUDO-
REVOLUTIONARY LEFT WHO WISH TO TURN AGRARIAN
WORKERS AGAINST THEIR UNIONS AND THEIR PARTY.

3. EANES TO SPAIN: PRESIDENT EANES LEFT MAY 23 ON A
FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT TO SPAIN. HE WAS ACCCOMPANIED
BY FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEROS FERREIRA, AND DEFENSE
MINISTER COL FIRMINO MIGUEL.

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4 AZORES DISPUTE SIMMERS: PS LEADER JAIME GAMA IN A MAY 21 INTERVIEW CALLED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF AZORES REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT MOTA AMARAL WITH AN INDEPENDENT; GAMA SUGGESTED REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALVARO MONJARDINO. THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT RESPONDED QUICKLY BY ACCUSING GAMA OF TRYING TO TOPPLE THE AZORES GOVERNMENT UNCONSTITUTIONALLY FROM LISBON. THE AZOREAN GOVERNMENT ALSO SAID THAT THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE LAJES BASE NEGOTIATIONS, CONTRARY TO REPORTS OF NONINVOLVEMENT CIRCULATED BY THE PORTUGUESE NWS SERVICE.

5. COMMENT: THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE EXPLOITING THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 25 SPEECH TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PS GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE OPPOSITION IS AWARE OF AND SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A PUBLIC MOOD OF UNEASE OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S STEWARDSHIP. THE PS, WHILE STRESSING PARTY UNITY AND IMPROVED ORGANIZATION, MAY FIND IT TACTICALLY USEFUL TO ACCEDE TO THE PSD INVITATION TO PARTY DISCUSSIONS.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, PO, PSD, CDS
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